

- (e) separating the desired sapogenins from the intermediate saponin-sapogenin mixture by silica-gel-column chromatography.

34. A process of preparing a sapogenin as claimed in claim 1 which comprises
5 producing a ginsenoside extract from plants selected from the group consisting of
panax ginseng, panax quinquefol and panax notoginseng, and proceeding
according to the following steps:

- (a) mixing the ginsenoside extract with water;
- (b) alternatively, mixing the ginsenosides extract with ethanol;
- 10 (c) mixing the extract and ethanol with alkali-metal alcoholates
solution to produce a mixture, and
- (d) placing the resultant mixture in a reaction tank so that the resultant
mixture can undergo chemical reactions under required high
temperature and high pressure;
- 15 (e) after the reaction is completed, collecting an intermediate product
of a mix of ginsenosides and sapogenins from the ethanol mixture;
and
- (f) separating the desired sapogenins from the intermediate saponin-
sapogenin mixture by silica-gel-column chromatography.

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